All India Radio and Doordarshan to counter hostile propaganda and to maintain communal harmony.

Downsizing of the Ministry

389. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether her Ministry is going through any downsizing plan; and

(b) if so, the names of the offices of the Ministry and the number of staff going to get VRS?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) The matter is under consideration of the Government.

Introduction of DD Bharati Channel

390. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:
SHRI SURESH KALMADI:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have approved programmes for the newly introduced DD Bharati Channel which will be aired during the next financial year;

(b) if so, the details thereof and efforts made to invite sponsors for these programmes and the response received, so far; and

(b) whether it is mandatory to beam the DD Bharati Channel by the cable operators?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) All programme matters, including programming of DD Bharati, fall within the purview of Prasar Bharati, an autonomous statutory body. Government does not interfere in such matters. Prasar Bharati has intimated that DD Bharati Channel has started functioning from 26.1.2002.

(b) Prasar Bharati has intimated that Doordarshan had invited proposals under the sponsored category for programmes on health, children, music, dance,